

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

CHAMPIONS

#**3**
OF 4

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG | 270



Hernandez • Zucchin • Hepp

SELECT YOUR ABILITY

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – A world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!



**CHARACTER
= SELECT =**



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
SUPER-SPEEDY HERO



HONEY THE CAT & AMY ROSE
FIGHTING FASHION DIVA
& HAMMER-SWINGING HEROINE



KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA
HUNTING FOR THE
MASTER EMERALD SHARDS



BEAK THE DUCK & NACK THE WEASEL
DYNAMITE GOOF-BALL
& FANGED SNIPER

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

PREVIOUSLY...

THE FINAL FIGHTS!

Sonic and his friends are on the hunt for the Chaos Emeralds to save the world!



They've entered Breezie's fighting tournament to win the Green Chaos Emerald, but it isn't just a straightforward competition. Dr. Eggman has hired the Hooligans to infiltrate the brackets, and Knuckles has shown up as the wildest of wild cards!



The tournament now enters its final round of eliminations...



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CASINO PARK,
EMPIRE CITY...

THE RECENT PAST.*

ISN'T IT MARVELOUS,
BREEZIE? A CITY WITH-
IN A CITY! A NEW
CAPITAL FOR YOUR
CASINO EMPIRE!

AND A RATHER
ELABORATE DEATH-
TRAP FOR SONIC.

*JUST BEFORE THE EVENTS
OF SONIC HEROES --THE GAME

OH-HO-HO!
WELL, YOU
KNOW ME...

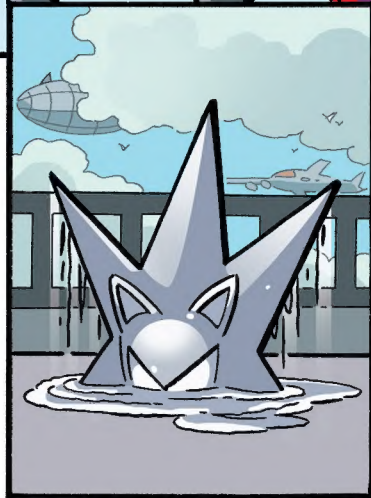
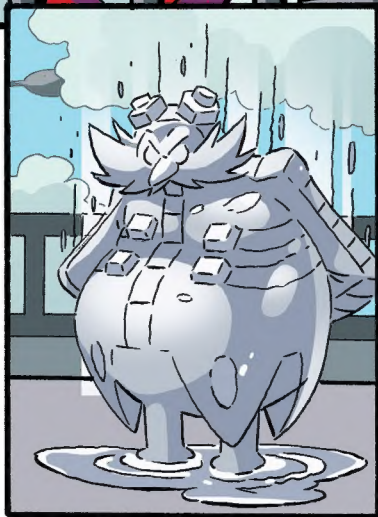
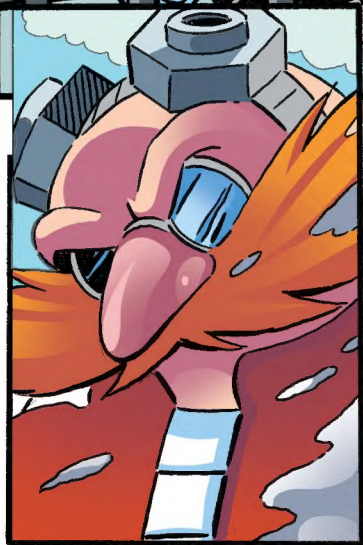
I DO.

YOU FOUND ME
WHEN I WAS IN A
BAD PLACE. YOU
SHOWED ME WHAT
IT TAKES TO NOT
JUST GET BY IN
THIS WORLD, BUT
TO SUCCEED--TO
CONQUER...

...WHICH IS WHY I
KNOW YOU'RE *NOT* THE
REAL EGGMAN.

WH-WHAT?!!
HOW DARE
YOU! I--!

PLEASE.
I'M CALLING YOUR
BLUFF.





HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN?

SINCE THE BEGINNING. THERE'S NO WAY THE REAL DOCTOR WOULD BE SO GENEROUS IN HIS NEGOTIATIONS.

IF YOU TRY TO WARN SONIC OR ANYONE ELSE--

AND *WHY* WOULD I DO THAT? IT'S LIKE YOU SAID--I'M GETTING A NEW CAPITAL FOR MY ECONOMIC EMPIRE.

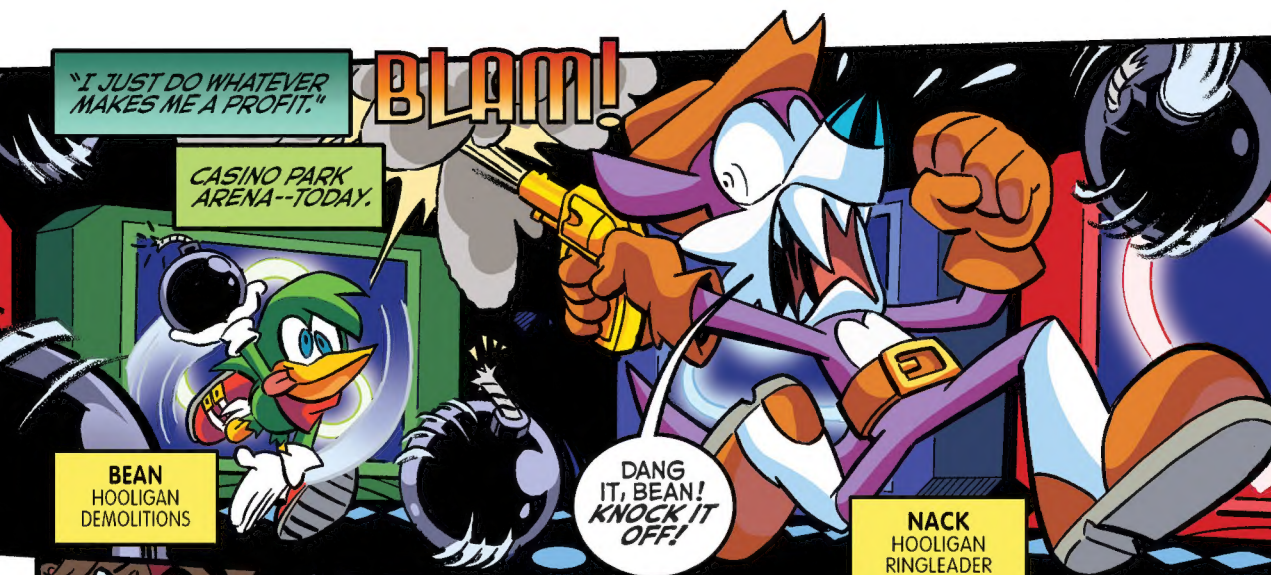
WE'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT, METAL SONIC...

NEO METAL SONIC.

OOOH! SEE? YOU'RE BRANCHING OUT FROM THE DOCTOR, BECOMING YOUR OWN MAN WITH YOUR OWN AGENDA.

YOUR BUSINESS WITH SONIC IS JUST THAT--*YOUR* BUSINESS.

HERO, VILLAIN--I DON'T TAKE SIDES.



"I JUST DO WHATEVER
MAKES ME A PROFIT."

CASINO PARK
ARENA--TODAY.

BEAN
HOOLIGAN
DEMOLITIONS

DANG
IT, BEAN!
KNOCK IT
OFF!

NACK
HOOLIGAN
RINGLEADER



HA!
HA!
HA!

TAILS
GOT ELIMINATED
LAST ROUND

SONIC
HEROIC
HEDGEHOG

I GOTTA GIVE
BREEZIE PROPS
FOR THIS
ROUND! THIS IS
HILARIOUS!

I SHOULD'VE
BEEN DOWN
THERE. I COULD
TAKE EITHER
OF THEM...



OH, COME ON,
BRO. ARE YOU
STILL MAD ABOUT
BEING BUMPED
BY HONEY?

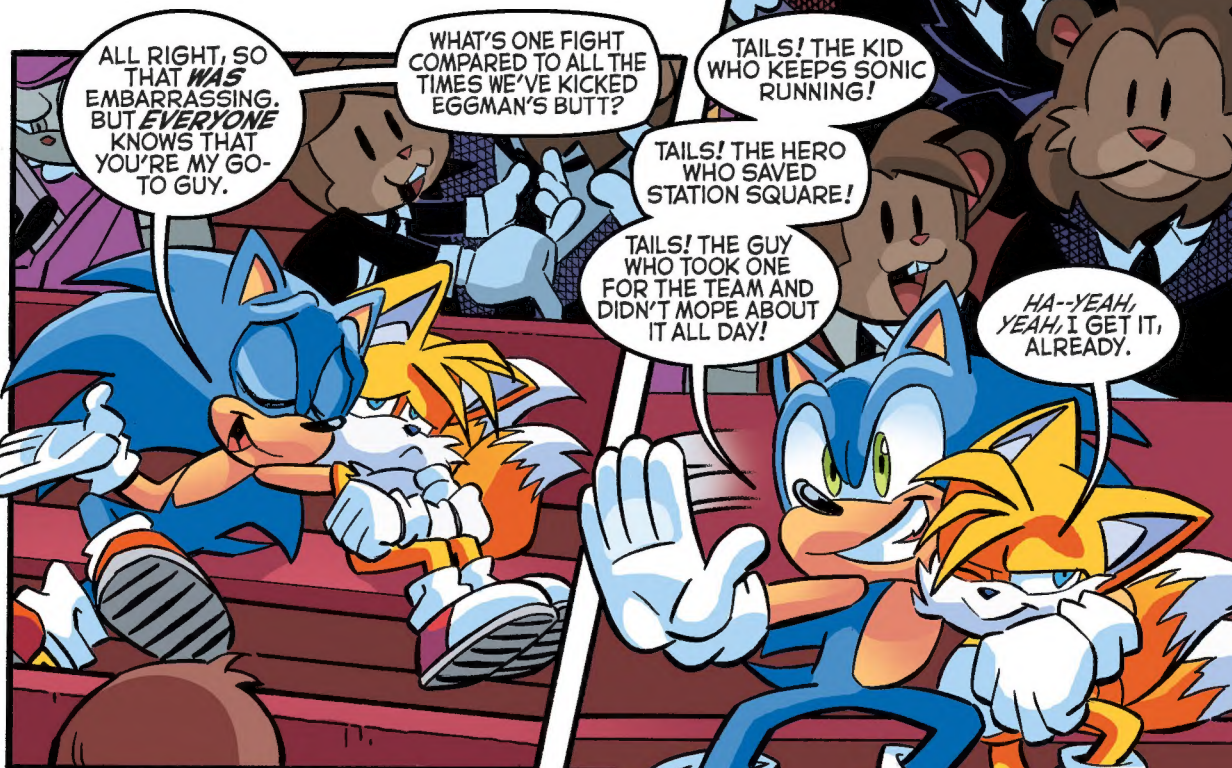
YES!



WHY? WIN OR
LOSE, THAT'S ONE STEP
CLOSER TO THE CHAOS
EMERALD.

BECAUSE SHE
MADE ME LOOK
LIKE AN AMATEUR
IN FRONT OF THE
WHOLE WORLD!





ALL RIGHT, SO THAT *WAS* EMBARRASSING. BUT *EVERYONE* KNOWS THAT YOU'RE MY GO-TO GUY.

WHAT'S ONE FIGHT COMPARED TO ALL THE TIMES WE'VE KICKED EGGMAN'S BUTT?

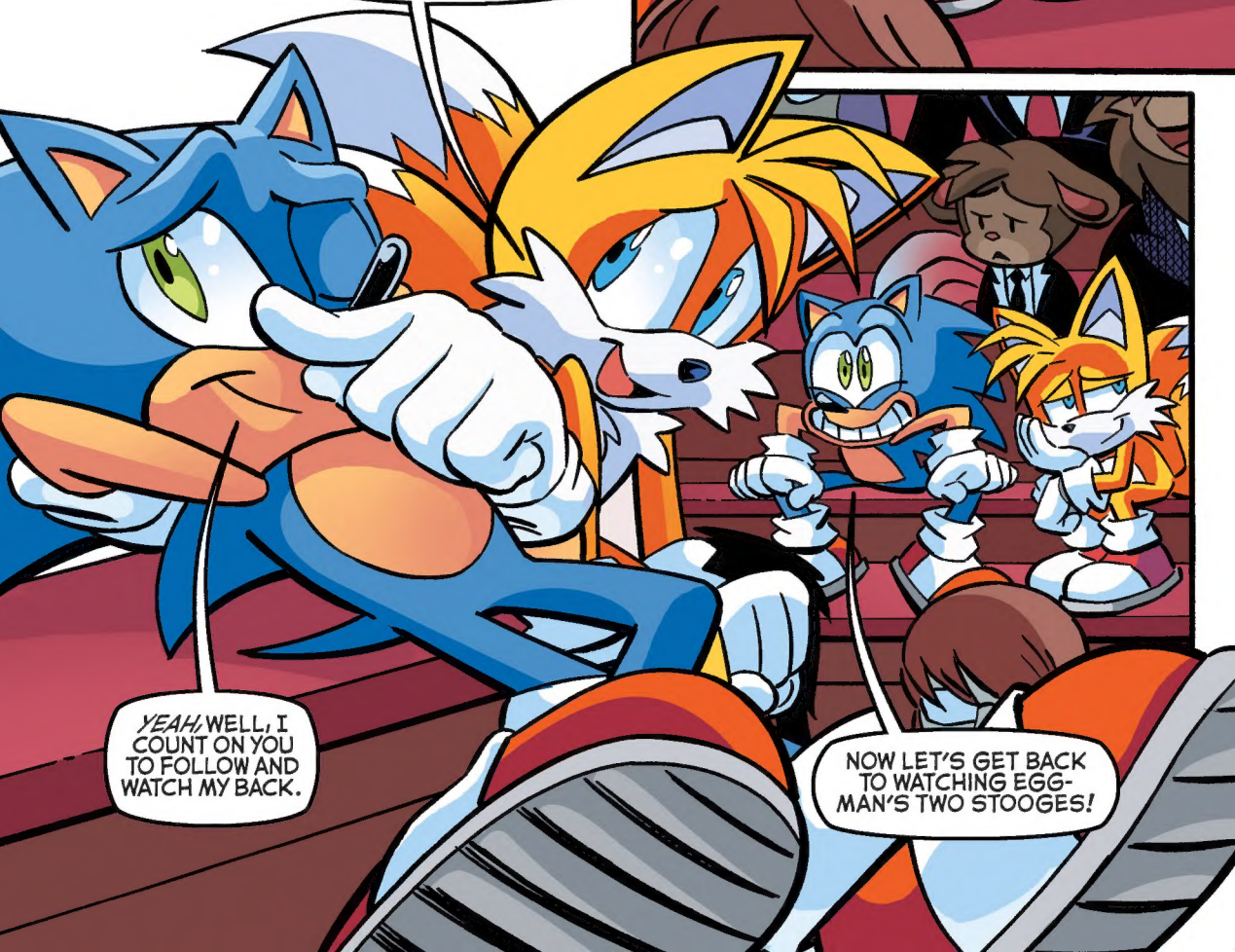
TAILS! THE KID WHO KEEPS SONIC RUNNING!

TAILS! THE HERO WHO SAVED STATION SQUARE!

TAILS! THE GUY WHO TOOK ONE FOR THE TEAM AND DIDN'T MOPE ABOUT IT ALL DAY!

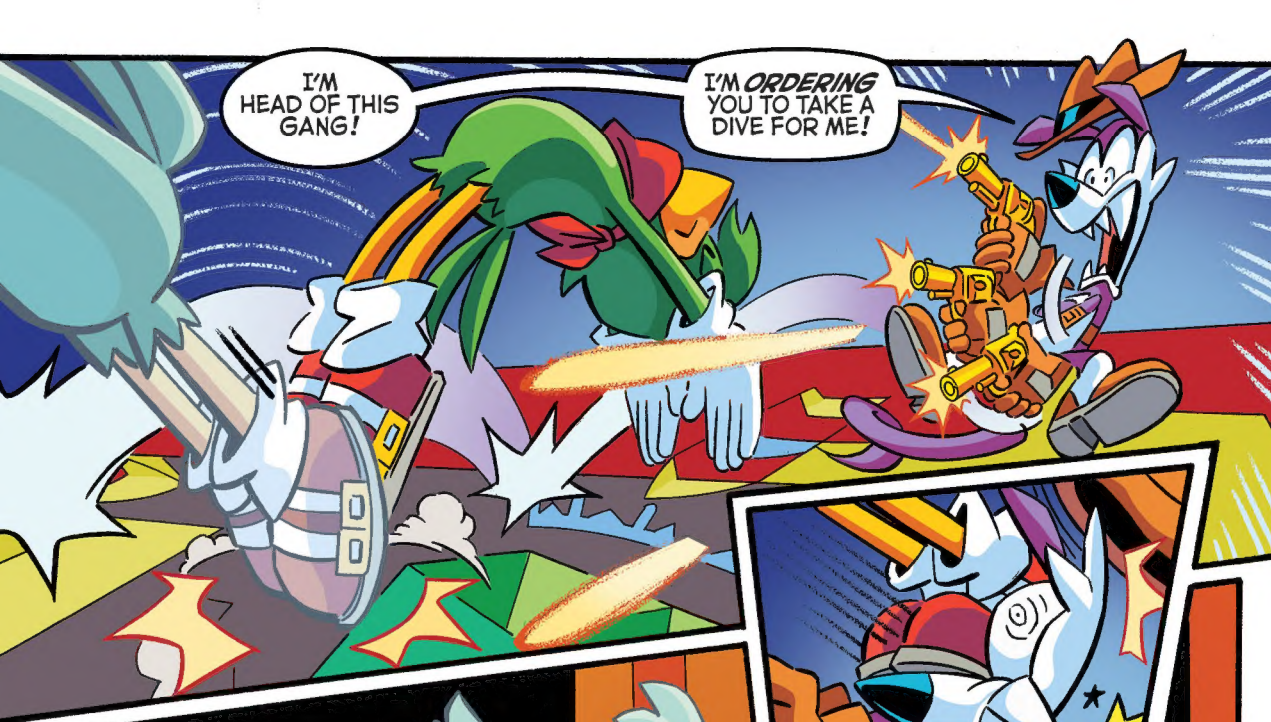
HA--YEAH, YEAH, I GET IT, ALREADY.

THANKS, SONIC. I JUST FEEL LIKE I'VE GOTTA PROVE MYSELF SOMETIMES. YOU'RE A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW.



YEAH, WELL, I COUNT ON YOU TO FOLLOW AND WATCH MY BACK.

NOW LET'S GET BACK TO WATCHING EGGMAN'S TWO STOOGES!



"YOU CAN USE YOUR
BLASTER THIS ROUND,"
BREEZIE SAID.

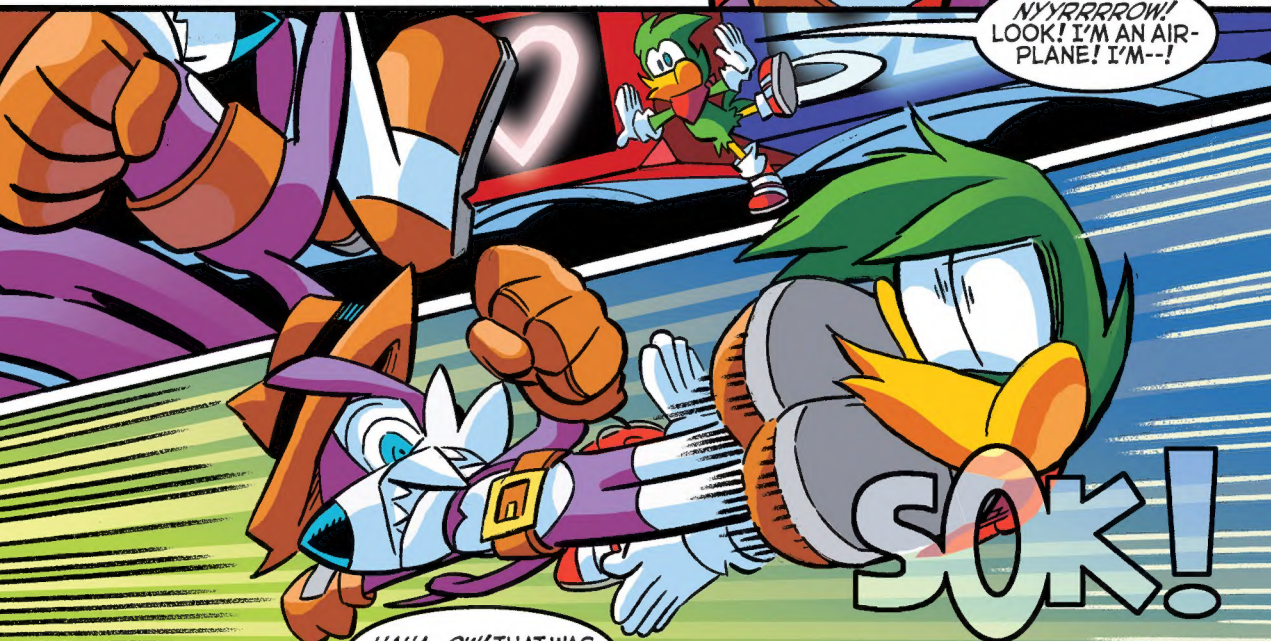
"SPECIAL
CONDITIONS, JUST
FOR *YOU*," SHE
SAID.

"WE'RE ALL FRIENDS OF
EGGMAN," SHE SAID!

THAT
LYING,
BACK-
STABBING
--SHE
SET ME
UP!



NYYYRRROW!
LOOK! I'M AN AIR-
PLANE! I'M--!



HABA--OW! THAT WAS
AWESOME! LET'S--!

YOU'RE
UNCONSCIOUS
NOW!



OKAY! BLEH!





THE WINNER BY A KNOCK-OUT--
NACK!

YO, ES!
SATISFIED THAT
BEAN GOT
BUMPED?

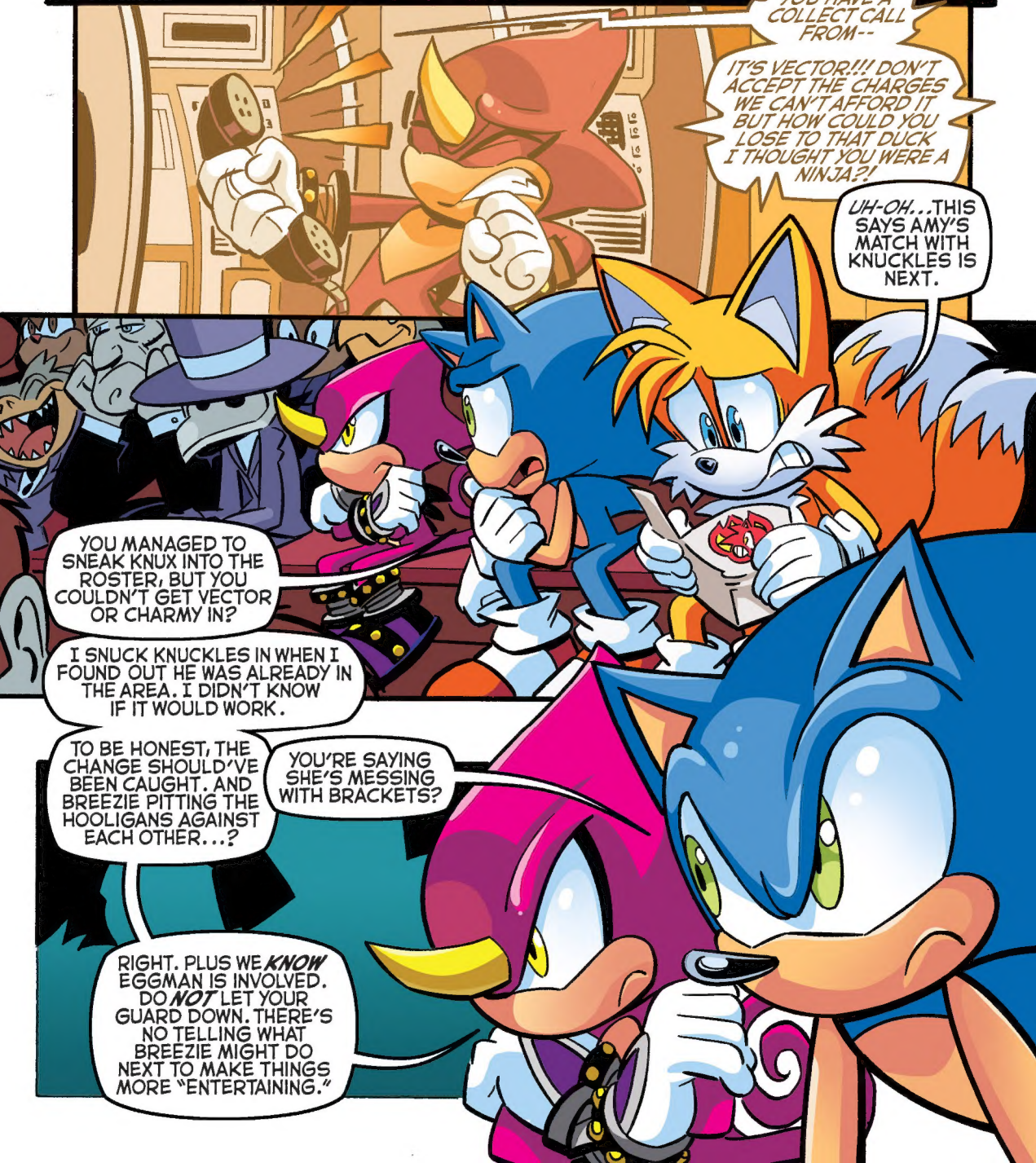
NOT
ESPECIALLY.

ESPIO
CHAOTIX
NINJA

YOU HAVE A
COLLECT CALL
FROM--

IT'S VECTOR!!! DON'T
ACCEPT THE CHARGES
WE CAN'T AFFORD IT
BUT HOW COULD YOU
LOSE TO THAT DUCK
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A
NINJA?!

UH-OH...THIS
SAYS AMY'S
MATCH WITH
KNUCKLES IS
NEXT.



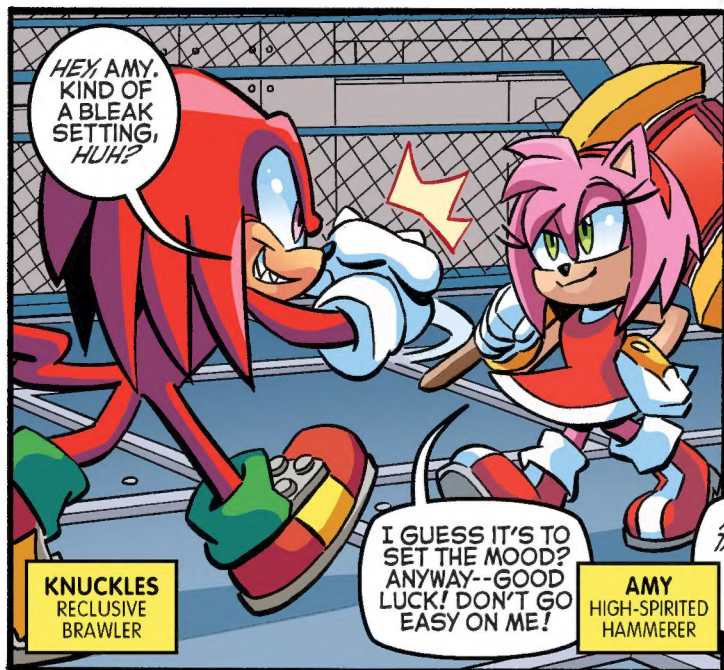
YOU MANAGED TO
SNEAK KNUX INTO THE
ROSTER, BUT YOU
COULDN'T GET VECTOR
OR CHARMY IN?

I SNUCK KNUCKLES IN WHEN I
FOUND OUT HE WAS ALREADY IN
THE AREA. I DIDN'T KNOW
IF IT WOULD WORK.

TO BE HONEST, THE
CHANGE SHOULD'VE
BEEN CAUGHT. AND
BREEZIE PITTING THE
HOOLIGANS AGAINST
EACH OTHER...?

YOU'RE SAYING
SHE'S MESSING
WITH BRACKETS?

RIGHT. PLUS WE *KNOW*
EGGMAN IS INVOLVED.
DO *NOT* LET YOUR
GUARD DOWN. THERE'S
NO TELLING WHAT
BREEZIE MIGHT DO
NEXT TO MAKE THINGS
MORE "ENTERTAINING."



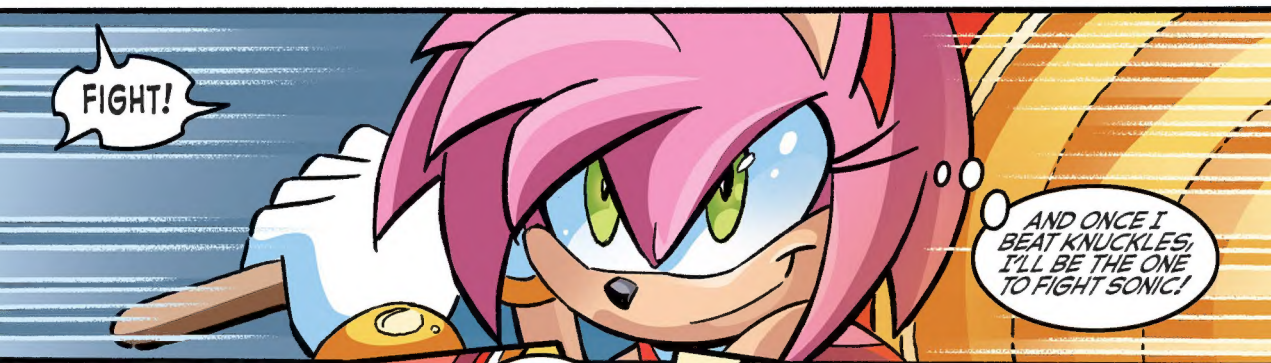
HEY, AMY.
KIND OF
A BLEAK
SETTING,
HUH?

KNUCKLES
RECLUSIVE
BRAWLER

I GUESS IT'S TO
SET THE MOOD?
ANYWAY--GOOD
LUCK! DON'T GO
EASY ON ME!

AMY
HIGH-SPIRITED
HAMMERER

ALL RIGHT! TIME TO
TAKE ON KNUCKLES!
HE'S TOUGH--BUT
I'VE COME A LONG
WAY MYSELF!

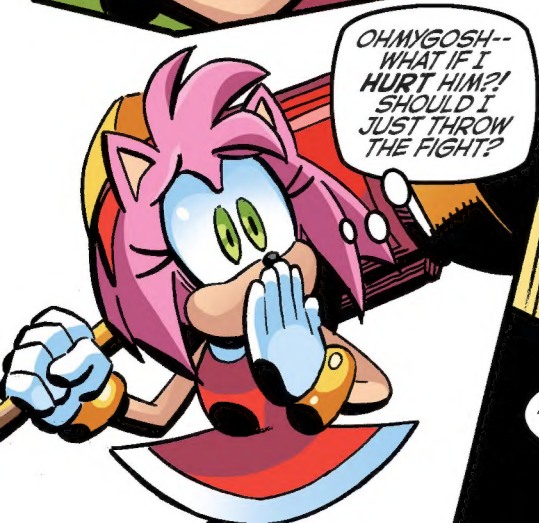


FIGHT!

AND ONCE I
BEAT KNUCKLES,
I'LL BE THE ONE
TO FIGHT SONIC!



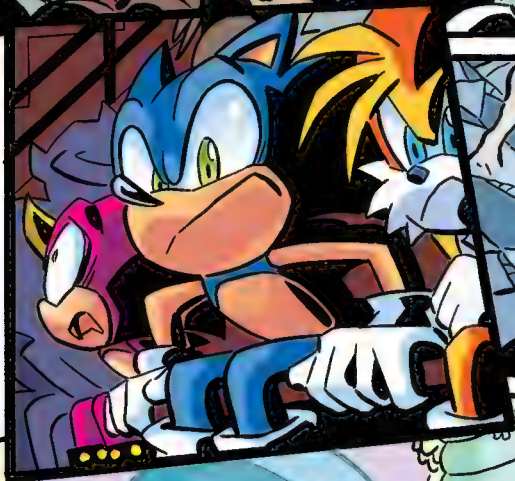
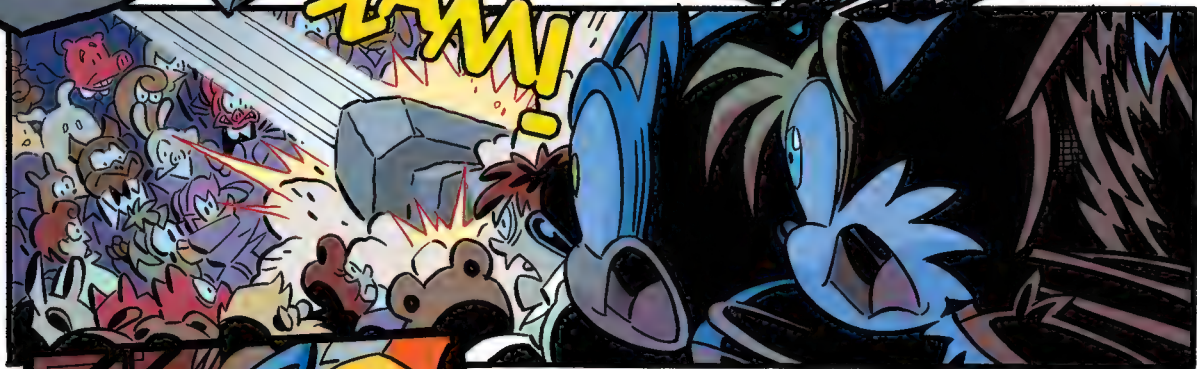
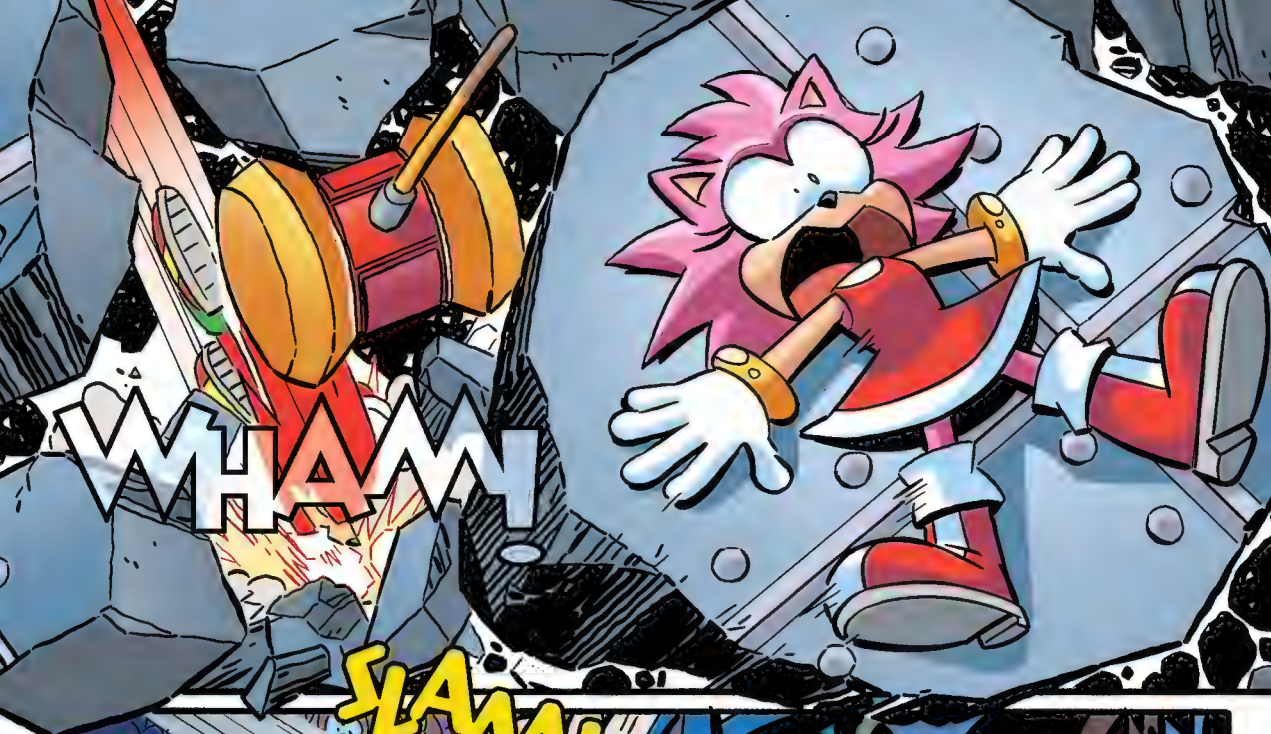
THAT WILL
IMPRESS HIM
...RIGHT?
OR... WILL
IT UPSET
HIM?

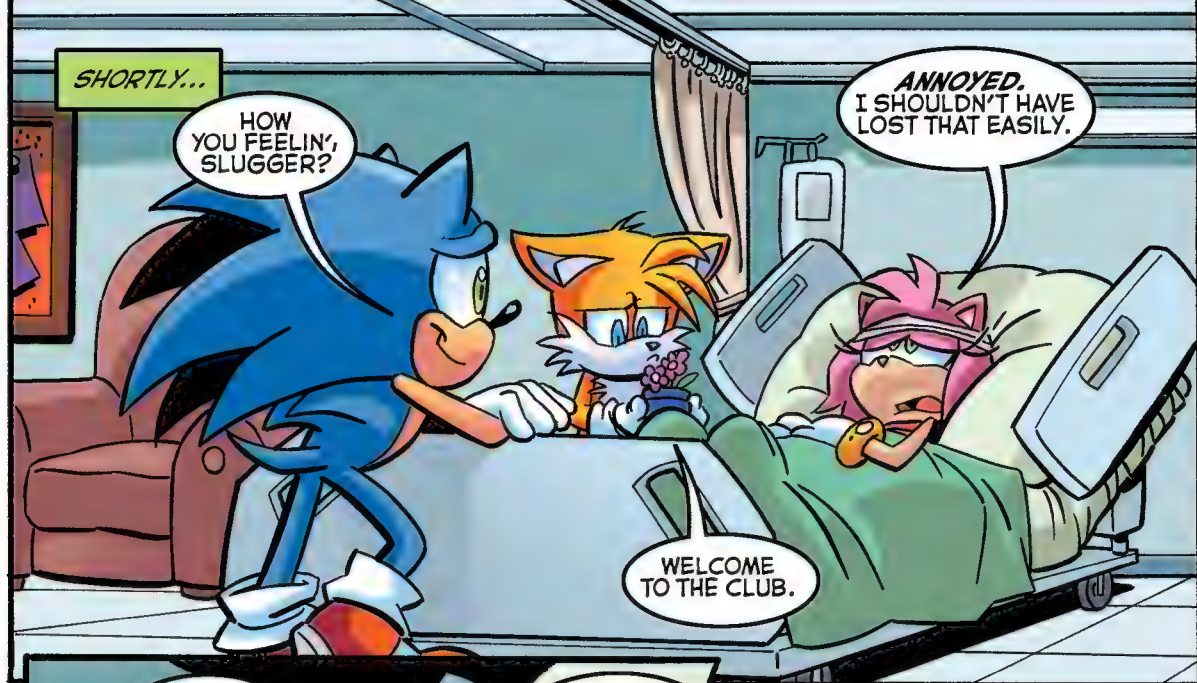


OH MY GOSH--
WHAT IF I
HURT HIM?!
SHOULD I
JUST THROW
THE FIGHT?



BUT WOULD THAT
UPSET HIM...?





READY
TO RUMBLE,
LADY?

READY
TO WIN?

HONEY
FASHIONABLE
FIGHTER

YOU'RE
GIVING
UP?

LISTEN, I DON'T THINK I
REALIZED HOW *SERIOUS*
THIS WAS AT THE START.
EGGMAN SENDING IN
MERCENARIES? BREEZIE
OBVIOUSLY MANIPULATING
THE FIGHTS?

I CAME HERE FOR
SELF-PROMOTION. YOU
CAME HERE TO *SAVE*
THE WORLD!

YOU NEED TO
BE IN THAT FINAL
ROUND. YOU NEED
TO WIN THAT
EMERALD.

THANKS. BUT
WE STILL HAVE
TO GIVE THE
PEOPLE A SHOW,
RIGHT?

OH--

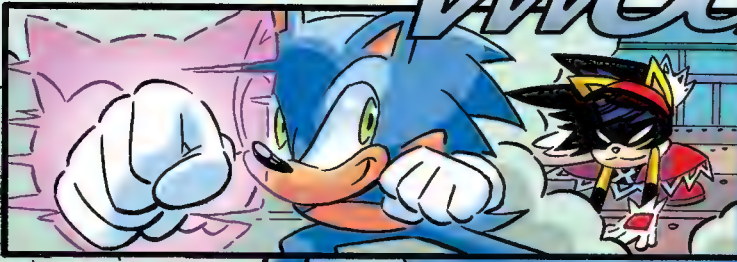
--ABSOLUTELY!

WHAM!



BREEZTV--DON'T
GAMBLE ON YOUR
ENTERTAINMENT.

WOOSH!



YOU
ALREADY
PULLED THAT
TRICK ON
TAILS...

GYEEP!

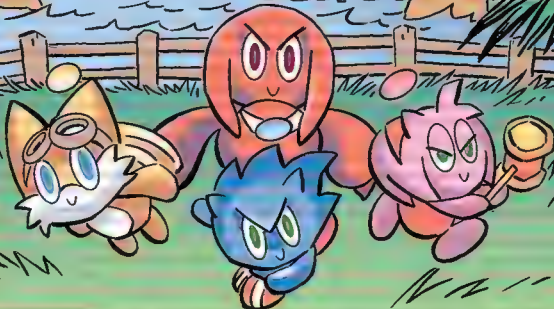


THAT WAS
SO COOL!

CHAO BOOM!

NEW
EPISODES
EVERY
SATURDAY
@ 6:00!

BREEZTV - MORE
OF WHAT YOU
WANT.

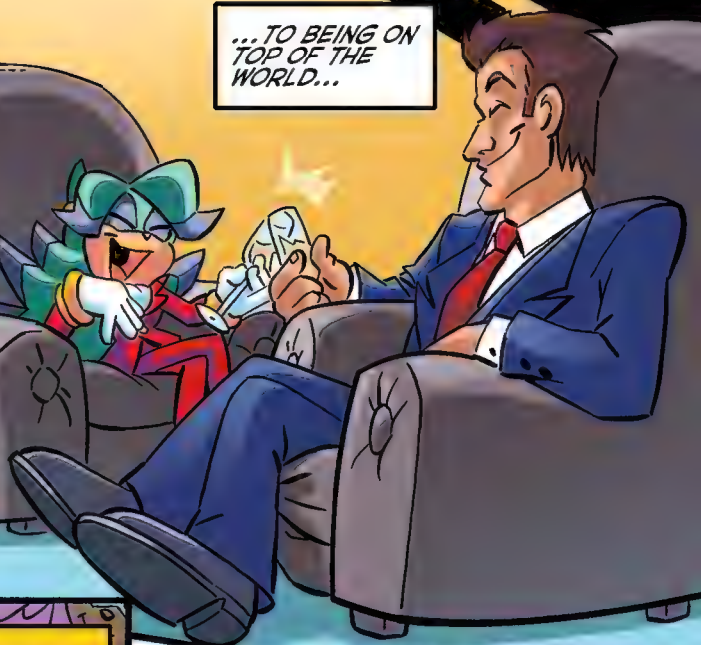


AND NOW A WORD
FROM OUR SPONSOR...

FROM HUMBLE
BEGINNINGS...



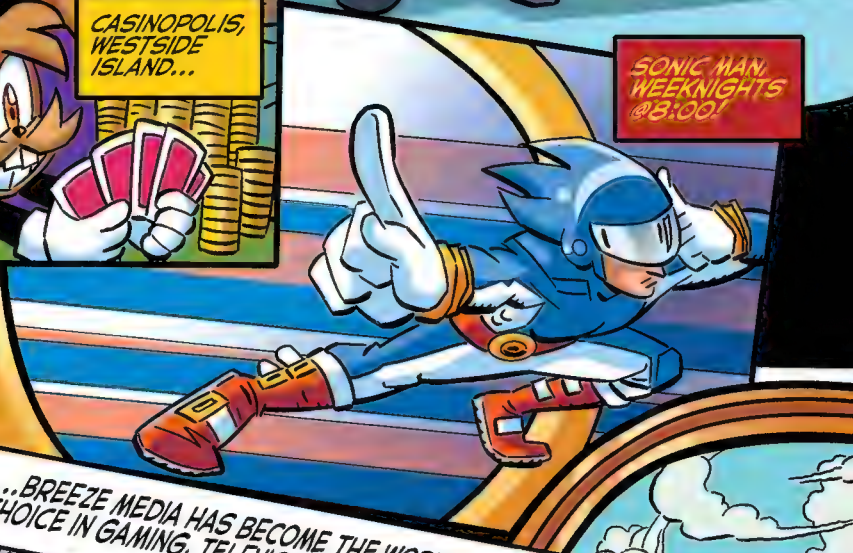
...TO BEING ON
TOP OF THE
WORLD...



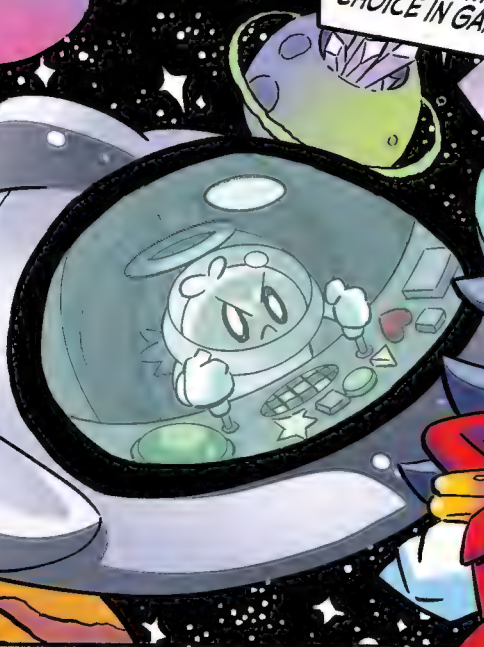
CASINOPOLIS,
WESTSIDE
ISLAND...



SONIC MAN,
WEEKNIGHTS
@8:00!



CHAO IN SPACE 3--
THIS SUMMER.



...BREEZE MEDIA HAS BECOME THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE
CHOICE IN GAMING, TELEVISION AND MOVIE ENTERTAINMENT!



JACKPOT

WITH BREEZE MEDIA,
EVERYBODY CAN BE A
WINNER!™



"...EVERYBODY CAN BE A WINNER!"

SURE. PULL THE OTHER ONE, YOU MANIPULATIVE SO-AND-SO...

CHEER UP, KNICK-NACK! YOU MADE IT TO THE SEMI-FINALS!

NO THANKS TO YOU.

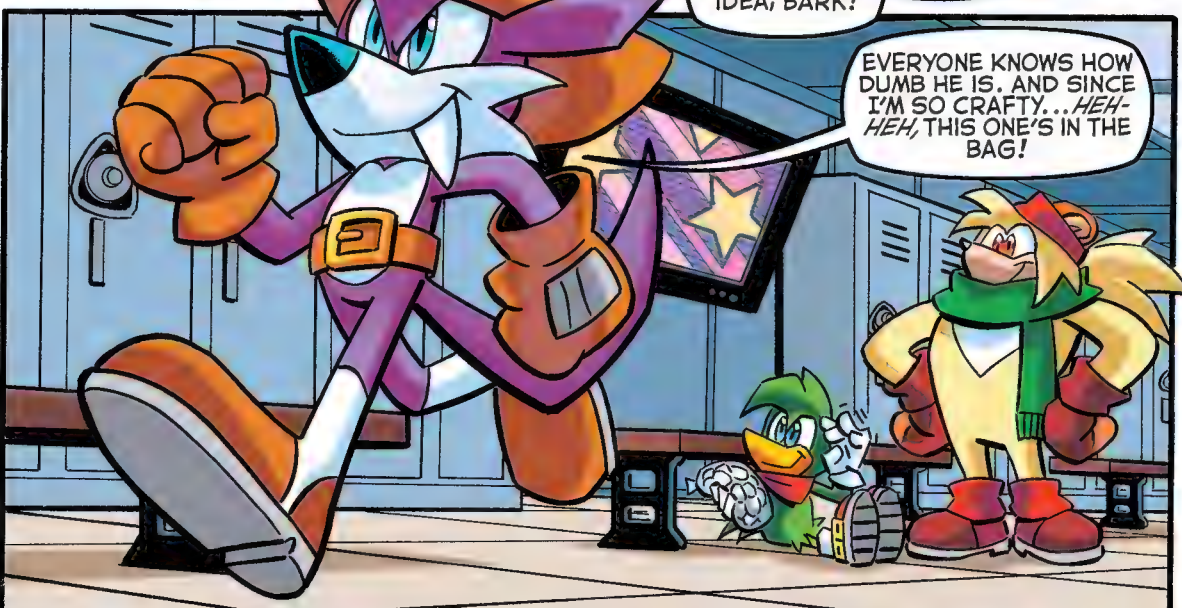
PAH! I WAS ONLY THROWING *TINY* EXPLOSIVES...



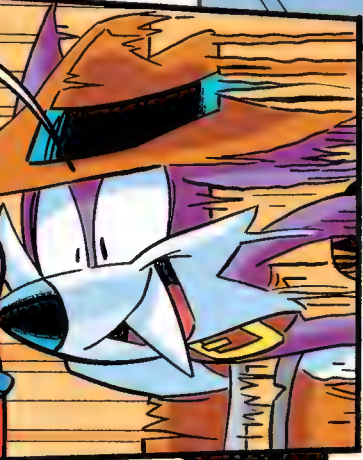
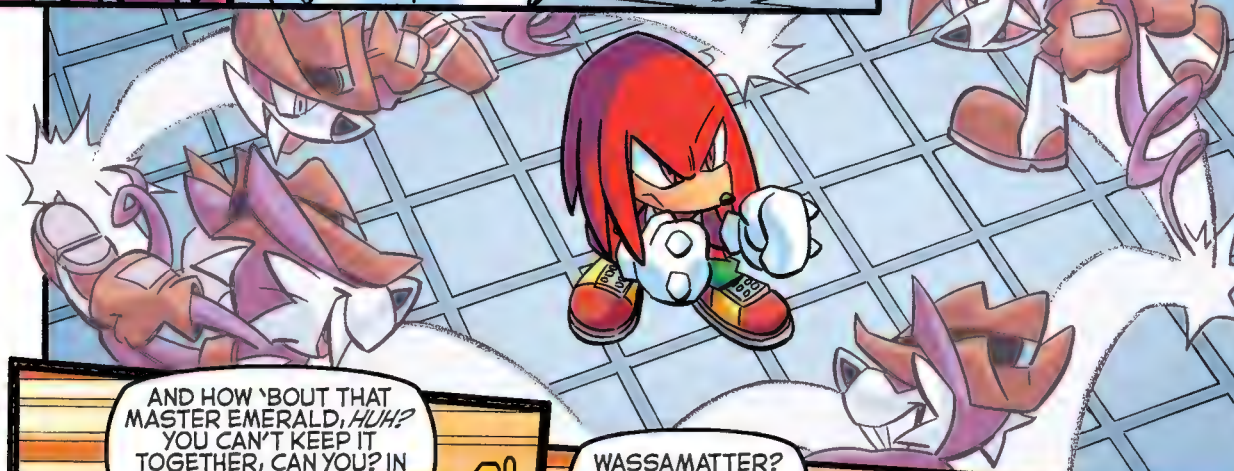
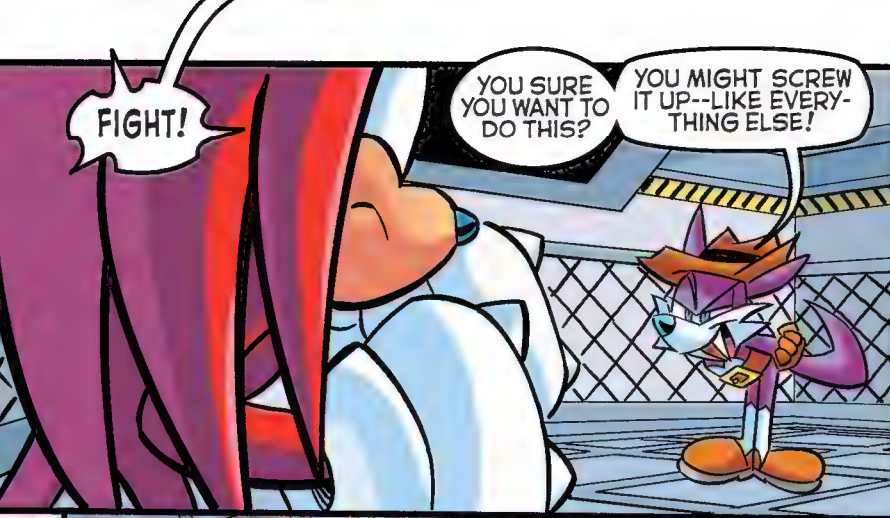
OKAY... GOING UP AGAINST KNUCKLES. AND I DON'T HAVE MY BLASTER THIS TIME...

ANY SUGGESTIONS?

GET IN HIS HEAD? *YEAH...* PSYCHE HIM OUT! GOOD IDEA, BARK!



EVERYONE KNOWS HOW DUMB HE IS. AND SINCE I'M SO CRAFTY... *HEH-HEH*, THIS ONE'S IN THE BAG!



WHAM!

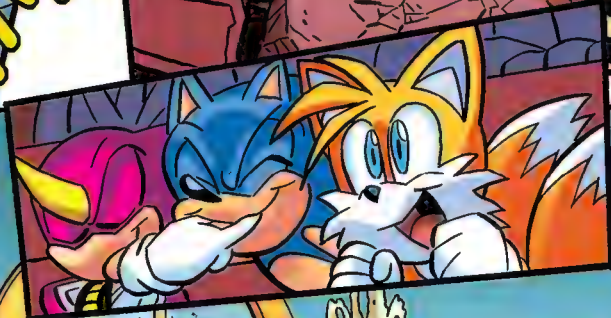


WHAM!



CRASH!

THWOK!



THE DEATH EGG...

TYPICAL! THEY CAN
HANDLE ANY JOB I
THROW AT THEM
EXCEPT WHEN
SONIC'S INVOLVED!

*You're
a real
mess...*
WHENEVER WE R.

HE DOES
SEEM TO
MAKE A
MESS OF
YOUR PLANS,
BOSS.

I PLAYED BY
BREEZIE'S RULES
UP TO THIS POINT.
NOW WE'RE DOING
THINGS *MY* WAY!

I THOUGHT
THAT STARTED
WHEN YOU
PIRATED HER
PAY-PER-VIEW
CHANNEL?

OH, I LOVE THAT
DUCK! HE'S SO
FUNNY!

REALLY?
I FIND HIM
TIRESOME.

YOU'VE COME A LONG
WAY, BREEZIE. BUT JUST
BECAUSE YOU RODE MY
COATTAILS TO SUCCESS
DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE
IN MY LEAGUE.

METAL SONIC!
WHAT'S YOUR
E.T.A.?

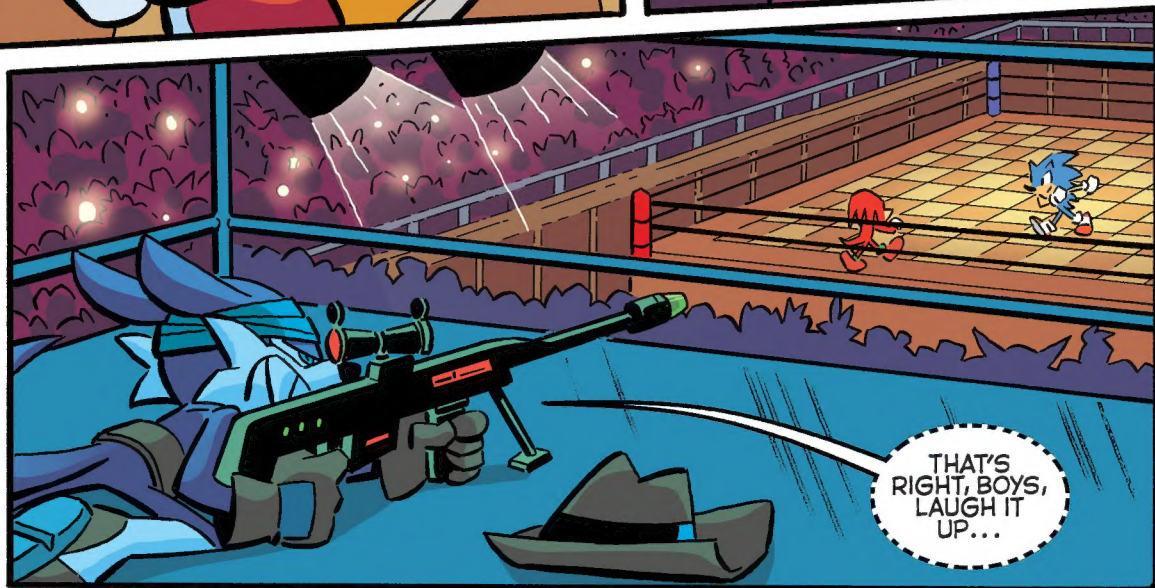
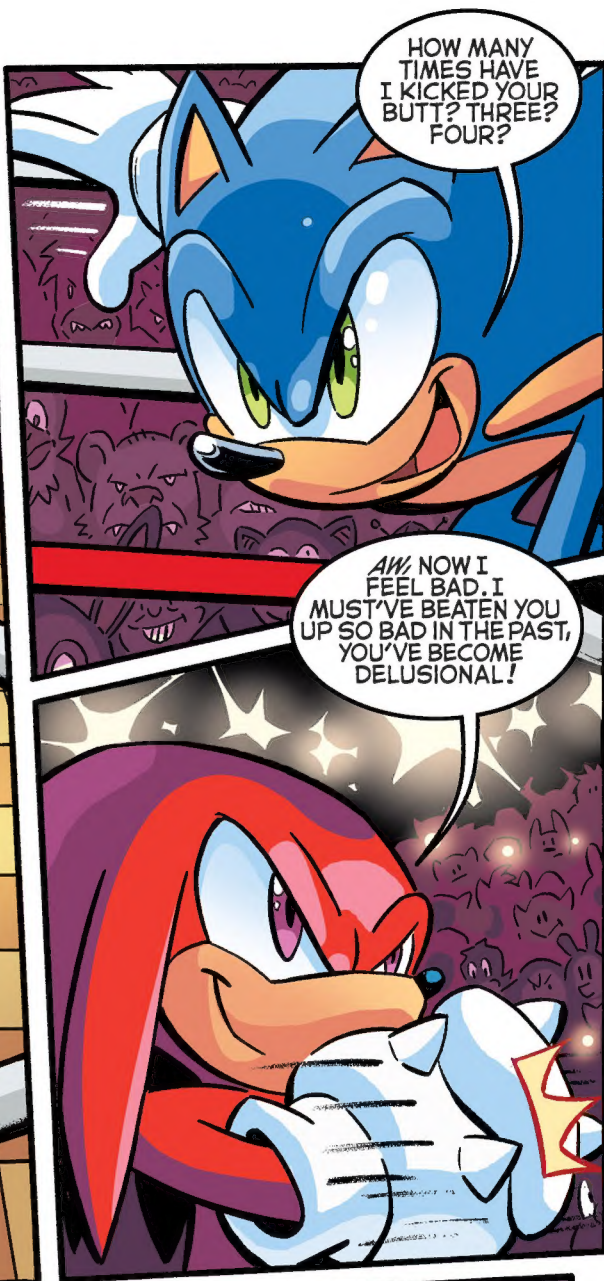
ONE HOUR.

PERFECT!

BEAN--ONCE NACK
IS ON HIS FEET, YOU
THREE GET INTO
POSITION FOR THE
BACK-UP PLAN!

RIGHT-
A-ROONEY,
LOONEY
TOONEY!

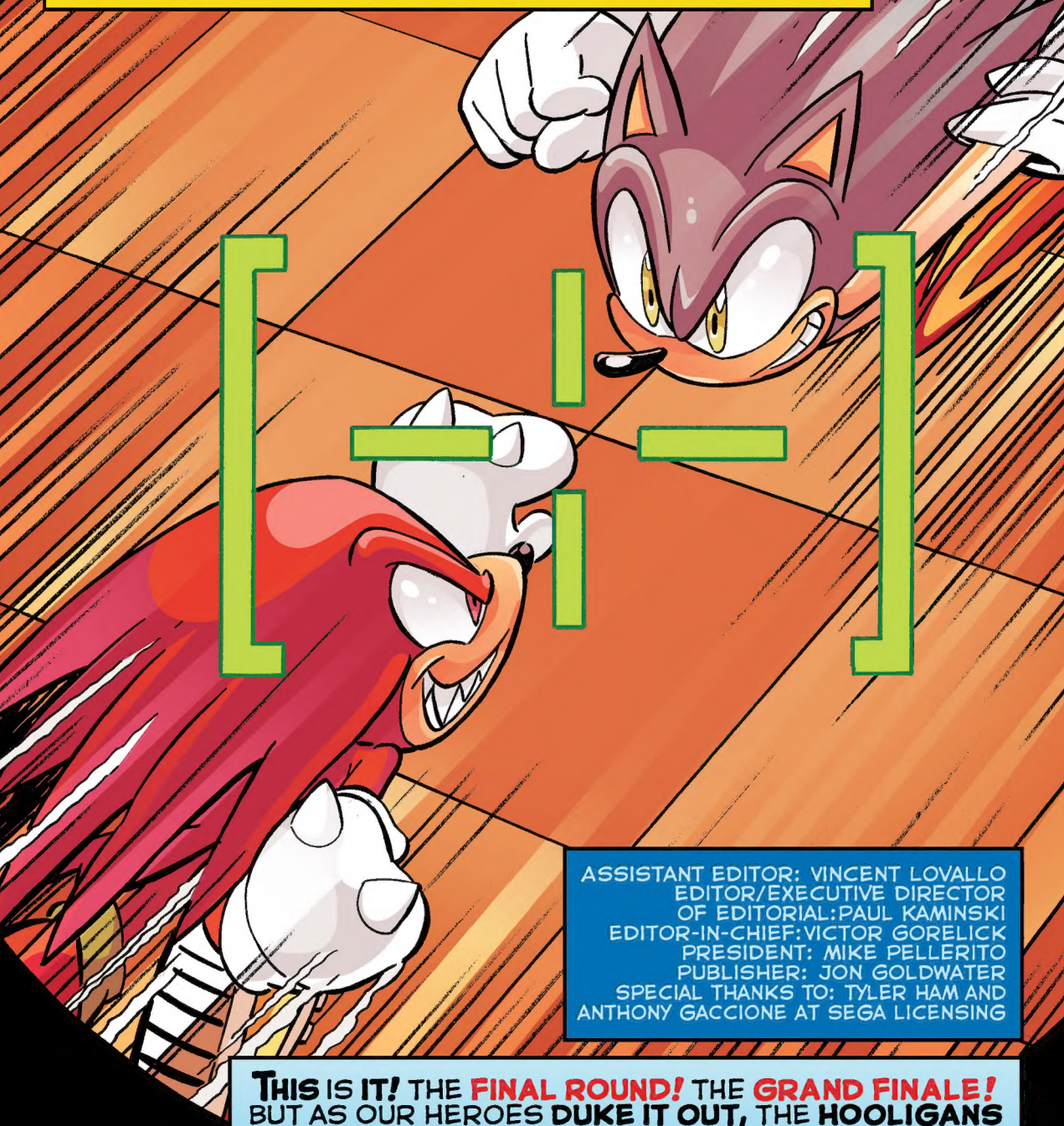
LOOKS LIKE
I'LL HAVE TO
TEACH YOU ONE
LAST LESSON.



CHAMPIONS

PART THREE: RAISING THE STAKES

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COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA•LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN
COVER BY JENNIFER HERNANDEZ, TERRY AUSTIN AND MATT HERMS
"MARVEL AT THIS SHOWDOWN" VARIANT COVER BY BRENT MCCARTHY



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PUBLISHER: JON GOLDWATER
SPECIAL THANKS TO: TYLER HAM AND
ANTHONY GACCIONE AT SEGA LICENSING

THIS IS IT! THE FINAL ROUND! THE GRAND FINALE!
BUT AS OUR HEROES DUKE IT OUT, THE HOOLIGANS
AND METAL SONIC PREPARE TO STRIKE!

UNTIL THEN, DON'T MISS OUT ON SONIC UNIVERSE, THE
SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE, SONIC SUPER DIGEST AND
THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY! PLUS THERE'S THE ALL-NEW
COMEDY SENSATION--

SONIC BOOM!



SONIC GRAMS

WRITE TO US @: MY SONIC GRAMS C/O
ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX #419 MAMARONECK,
NY 10543-0419 E-MAIL:
SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM
OR TWEET AT US USING #SONICGRAMS!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

I loved Sonic when I was a kid. I played the games, watched the shows and read the comic. I read the recent issue #268 and I see you have brought Scratch, Grounder, Coconuts and even Breezie from the *Adventures of Sonic the Hedgehog* show. The issue also has Honey the Cat mention her "Dream-casters" clothing line. I used to own the Sega Dreamcast. I'm amazed how much Sonic (and Sega) nostalgic Easter Eggs are in the comic series. Thank you very much.

Andrew R. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the letter, Andrew! I'm glad you're enjoying the new storyline and revived characters! We're big fans of all things Sonic as well! Our master scribe, Ian Flynn, is a Sonic expert and has managed to cleverly incorporate the more obscure characters that fans love into the comic universe for all to enjoy.

Dear Sonic grams,
HELLO ARCHIE SONIC
PEOPLE!!!!

HEY ARCHIE SONIC FAN!!!

You guys are THE AWESOMEST!
I will have the usual!

YOU SHALL HAV-- Oh, you said it already. Dang!

First of all, is Chip ever going to meet Sonic the Werehog and will Sonic turn into a Werehog and scare everyone?

Maaybe...

Third, is Honey good or no?

Honey can be a bit crazy, especially when it comes to fighting and fashion. She's competitive and sneaky, but she's sure to do the right thing, at least, we THINK so...

Lastly, when Nack shoved Bean and Bark back when he saw the Freedom Fighters, was he startled that Sonic was there, or was he scared of Amy? Tell Tracy Yardley and Ian Flynn to PLEASE make more AWESOME stories like that!

Grace B. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks, Grace! Nack was surprised to see Sonic and crew and wanted to keep a low profile before the tournament!

See y'all next time for the chaotic conclusion to "Champions"!

COMING SOON!



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